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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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DRIED FIG PRODUCTION (Page 399)

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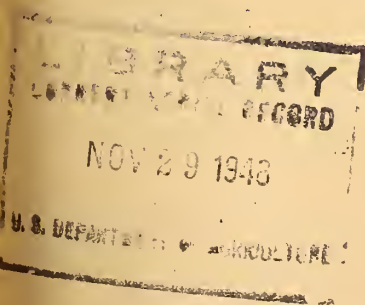
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L A T E N E W S

Cotton stocks in the United Kingdom on September 30, 1948, were reported at 995,000 bales (480 pounds net) as compared to 1,352,000 bales at the end of August and 1,890,000 bales on September 30, 1947. This is the lowest stock figure reported by the United Kingdom in the postwar period and represents about two-thirds of the level of stocks that were normally maintained in the prewar period. At the current rate of consumption the September stocks represent about 6-months' supply.

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The Belgian Bureau of Textile Allocations reports that production of cotton yarn exceeded the 1938 monthly average of 6,256 metric tons for the first 6 months of 1948. However, in July and August production dropped below the 1938 average due to a decline in textile exports. The fall in textile exports is attributed to the shortage of dollars and francs in the purchasing countries.

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Cotton exports from the United States in September 1948 totaled 179,700 bales (of 500 pounds gross) compared with 118,700 bales in August. The total of 298,400 bales for the 2-month period included 74,600 to France, 49,100 to Japan, 45,500 to China, 35,200 to Italy, 12,700 to Canada, 12,700 to Germany, 12,000 to Poland, 8,500 to the United Kingdom, 6,100 to Chile, 5,700 to the Netherlands, and 5,500 to Belgium.

FOREIGN 1948 DRIED FIG PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY SMALLER

The preliminary estimate of dried fig production during 1948 in the leading commercial producing countries excluding the United States is 180,700 short tons, compared with 191,400 tons in 1947 (revised) and 155,600 tons in 1946 (revised). This estimate represents a 28 percent increase over the 5-year (1942-46) average of 141,500 tons and an 11 percent increase over the 10-year (1937-46) average of 163,000 tons.

Larger production estimates than in the previous year are recorded for Italy, Greece, Portugal, and Argentina. In Turkey, one of the most important foreign producing countries, a slight decline is reported, while the Union of South Africa, a relatively minor producing country, reports no change. Official estimates for United States dried fig production have not yet been released, but some trade sources now estimate the 1948 production at about 22,000 tons. This packer estimate indicates an output considerably below the 5-year (1942-46) average of 33,900.

Dried fig production is not confined to the countries shown in table 1. Spain, Syria, and Lebanon produce and export dried figs but data on the industry in these countries are incomplete and the production estimates are therefore not included in the table. Practically all other Mediterranean Basin countries produce some figs but production in most of these is small and almost exclusively for the domestic market. Elsewhere in the world, small plantings are found in many Latin American countries, the Near East, Far East and Australia.

During the 1947-48 season Turkey was again the principal exporter of dried figs, though some tonnages were moved by Greece and Italy. As new crop 1948 figs came to market only 200 tons of edible figs remained from the previous year's pack; these were in Syria-Lebanon and are not thought to be of exportable grades. United States imports during the season totaled 1,546 tons, of which 900 tons were from Turkey, 497 tons from Greece and 145 tons from Italy.

The 1947-48 marketing season started very slowly, but as the season advanced, dried figs moved into export and consumptive channels in the domestic markets in good volume. Algeria was able to dispose of most of its exportable surplus in France, its normal export outlet. Greek exports were below prewar tonnages and the bulk of the crop was used within the country. The same situation was found in Portugal. Spain was practically out of the export market with only 11 tons reported as being sent abroad.

The Turkish market was by far the most active during the season. A part of the near prewar activity late in the season may be attributed to the heavy purchases on the part of the United Kingdom. The continued gradual return to more normal economic and political conditions in Europe brought a slight pick-up in exports to European countries.

TABLE 1. DRIED FIGS: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, 1948 with comparisons (Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Algeria	Argentina	Greece	Italy	Portugal
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:					
1942-46	14,900	600	18,400	68,300	9,200
1937-46	16,700	600	22,100	81,600	8,600
Annual:					
1940	20,800	300	31,900	107,400	7,700
1941	<u>a/</u> 19,000	1,400	23,100	80,200	11,000
1942	<u>a/</u> 14,900	<u>a/</u> 800	20,900	85,400	8,800
1943	17,200	400	16,500	66,000	12,100
1944	<u>a/</u> 9,500	200	13,200	70,400	8,800
1945	<u>a/</u> 10,400	300	19,800	59,200	5,500
1946	<u>a/</u> 22,700	1,300	21,400	60,500	11,000
1947 <u>b/</u>	<u>a/</u> 48,600	1,000	27,800	66,000	<u>a/</u> 10,400
1948 <u>b/</u>	33,000	1,100	28,600	68,900	12,600
	South Africa	Turkey	Total Foreign countries	United States	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average					
1942-46	200	29,900	141,500	33,900	175,400
1937-46	100	33,300	163,000	32,100	195,100
Annual:					
1940	100	32,000	200,200	32,000	232,200
1941	100	38,500	<u>a/</u> 173,300	33,500	<u>a/</u> 206,800
1942	200	19,800	<u>a/</u> 150,800	28,200	<u>a/</u> 179,000
1943	200	27,500	139,900	36,700	176,600
1944	200	35,200	<u>a/</u> 137,500	35,200	<u>a/</u> 172,700
1945	200	28,600	<u>a/</u> 124,000	32,600	<u>a/</u> 156,600
1946	200	38,500	<u>a/</u> 155,600	36,600	<u>a/</u> 192,200
1947 <u>b/</u>	200	<u>a/</u> 37,400	<u>a/</u> 191,400	<u>a/</u> 38,000	<u>a/</u> 229,400
1948 <u>b/</u>	200	36,300	180,700	<u>c/</u> (22,000)	202,700

a Revised, b/ Preliminary, c/ Trade estimate of merchantable figs. only. Not official.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, or other information.

The present marketing season (1948-49) opened in most countries, with somewhat more activity than was the case a year ago. The United Kingdom's purchase in Turkey of 11,000 tons less than a month after the opening of the new season was somewhat reminiscent of prewar years. This one sale represents over half of Turkey's exportable surplus. The trade in Izmir feels that most of the exportable surplus of edible figs will be sold by the first of the new year.

The situation in Greece is a little confused at this time. It now seems probable that it will be a little more difficult to move any substantial tonnage of Greek figs into the international markets. Prices of Greek figs may be higher due to the higher prices demanded by growers.

UNITED STATES: Imports of dried figs by specified countries, 1947-48 with comparisons

Year a/	Turkey	Greece	Italy	Other countries	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average					
1943-47	715	214	61	3	993
1938-47	560	373	110	15	1,058
Annual					
1938-39	860	887	641	17	2,405
1939-40	804	1,365	155	18	2,342
1940-41	316	394	0	46	756
1941-42	48	10	0	26	84
1942-43	0	0	0	31	31
1943-44	0	0	0	b/	b/
1944-45	5	0	0	b/	5
1945-46	1,750	0	b/	1	1,751
1946-47	921	574	161	7	1,663
1947-48	900	497	145	4	1,546

a/ September-August year.

b/ Less than one-half ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDSU.S. RICE EXPORTS
INCREASE

September exports of United States rice of 41 million pounds were substantially larger than the 19 million exported in August, but less than in September a year earlier. Deliveries during the first 2 months of the current August-July marketing year were 28 percent less than in the same period in the preceding year. Nearly three-fourths of September exports went to Cuba.

UNITED STATES: Rice exports to specified countries,
September 1948, with comparisons a/

Continent: or country	August-July		August-September		September	
	1937-38	1947-48	1947	1948	1947	1948
	to	b/	b/	b/	b/	b/
	1941-42					
	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Europe.....	43	22	c/	5	c/	4
Cuba.....	275	527	69	34	51	29
Canada.....	19	54	5	1	1	1
Br. West Indies:	c/	11	c/	c/	c/	c/
China.....	d/	203	0	12	0	c/
Korea.....	d/	54	8	4	8	2
Other countries:	21	24	1	4	2	5
Total.....	358	895	83	60	62	41

a/ Includes milled rice, brown, broken, screenings and rough rice converted to milled at 65 percent. b/ Preliminary. c/ Less than 500,000 pounds.
d/ If any, included in other countries.

Compiled from official records. Bureau of the Census

CUBA RESTRICTS PURCHASES
OF HIGH-QUALITY RICE 1/

The Cuban Government late in October secured an agreement from about 90 percent of the importers to withhold for 2 weeks purchases of long-grain rice selling for more than \$11.00 per 100 pounds. Merchants generally complied with this price-control measure, and on November 4 the agreement was temporarily continued. Purchases of United States rice in the last 3 weeks of October amounted to 36, 20, and 32 million pounds, respectively.

1/ A more extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

A record rice crop is now being harvested in Cuba. Production may reach 3,100,000 bushels (90 million pounds milled) compared with the revised estimate of 2,870,000 bushels (84 million pounds) a year ago, and with production of about 1,000,000 bushels (30 million pounds) during the prewar (1935-39) average years.

(Continued on Page 414)
COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

FRENCH COTTON STOCKS AT VERY LOW LEVEL

Stocks of cotton in France on August 1, 1948, were down to only 292,000 bales, according to a recent report by A. P. Muelberger, Agricultural Attache at the American Embassy, Paris.

This figure represents a reduction of 50 percent from the 586,000 bales reported a year ago and stocks now equal only $3\frac{1}{2}$ months' mill requirements at the current rate of consumption. The reduction in stocks, however, was confined entirely to American and Egyptian growths. The shortage of American cotton was considered very serious with less than 2-months' supply on hand.

A 4-month supply of all cotton is considered necessary for efficient operation of French spinning mills. Since the industry produces a wide variety of goods, it is necessary to keep a wide range of various qualities of cotton on hand to fill specialized requirements. The French cotton textile industry is also widely dispersed in eastern and northeastern France, and transportation is still slow and difficult over most of the country. On August 1, 1948, mill stocks amounted to only 167,000 bales or 2 months' supply, while over 40 percent of the stocks were at ports or in transit.

Cotton mill operations during July and August were reported to have fallen 20 percent from the level of previous months. Much of this decline was attributed to short supplies of medium and long-staple cotton. Inability to obtain adequate supplies of these qualities is attributed to shortage of dollar exchange and the high prices of Egyptian cotton. There was some increase in arrivals of ECA-financed cotton in August and September, but United States export statistics indicate that a sharp drop occurred in October, and supplies are still considerably below current needs. Increased imports of Egyptian cotton may be expected this year in view of lower cotton prices in Egypt and an improved exchange position between the two countries. If adequate supplies of raw cotton can be secured, the French textile industry will be able to regain the level of operation of the past 2 seasons.

French import requirements in 1948-49 have been estimated at 1,100,000 bales. This assumes mill operations can be maintained and

stocks would be rebuilt to a normal level. This would be a 50-percent increase in imports over the past 2 seasons. In 1946-47 and 1947-48 a large share of the French industry's requirements was filled by drawing on the large stocks then existing in the country. In 1946-47 the 1,068,000-bale consumption was met by importing 817,000 bales and withdrawing 334,000 bales 1/ from stocks. In the 1947-48 season 812,000 bales were imported and stocks were reduced 294,000 bales 2/ to meet the consumption requirements of 1,014,000 bales.

In addition to the increased import requirements of the French industry in 1948-49, a much larger share of these imports is expected to be filled with American cotton under the ECA program.

France: Supply and distribution of raw cotton
1944-45 to 1947-48
(In thousands of bales, 480 pounds net)

	: Prewar average 1934-35 to 1938-39	: 1944-45	: 1945-46	: 1946-47	: 1947-48
Stocks August 1.....	(640)	7	395	920	586
Imports.....	1,240	506	1,323	817	812
Total supply.....	1,880	513	1,718	1,737	1,398
Consumption.....	1,180	105	788	1,068	1,014
Destroyed.....	-	13	10	83	92
Stocks July 31.....	700	395	920	586	292
Total distribution....	1,880	513	1,718	1,737	1,398

Source: Compiled from a recent report from the Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Paris.

1/ Includes 83,000 bales destroyed by fire.

2/ Includes 92,000 bales destroyed by fire.

FATS AND OILSPHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS
BELOW MONTHLY AVERAGE

Copra exports from the Philippines during October were approximately 30 percent below the average for the first 9 months of 1948. Only 37,837 long tons were shipped compared with 100,457 for October 1947. January-October exports total 517,126 tons or 35 percent less than the comparable period last year. The United States received only 19,409 tons, against 76,303 in October 1947.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Copra exports, October 1948 with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country a/	Copra distribution				
	Average	Jan.-Sept.		October	
	1935-39	1947 b/	1948 b/	1947 b/	1948 b/
United States (total).....	206,801	585,620	288,091	76,303	19,409
Atlantic Coast.....	-	116,034	34,873	13,522	10,950
Gulf Coast.....	-	77,155	47,144	3,612	4,000
Pacific Coast.....	-	392,431	206,074	59,169	4,459
Canada.....	-	16,607	15,049	-	-
Mexico.....	7,260	1,500	-	-	-
Panama Canal Zone.....	-	1,009	1,764	200	300
Columbia.....	-	5,300	3,828	-	-
Venezuela.....	-	7,862	2,525	-	-
Austria.....	-	6,000	6,000	-	-
Belgium.....	10	10,306	1,000	4,200	-
Czechoslovakia.....	-	7,676	-	-	-
Denmark.....	6,025	44,823	20,836	-	1,700
France.....	24,589	73,232	59,812	-	1,000
Bi-Zonal Germany.....	7,309	11,220	5,350	-	-
Italy.....	4,079	26,076	14,400	3,955	1,000
Netherlands.....	28,415	7,962	4,900	-	3,049
Norway.....	91	15,719	4,297	2,602	3,979
Poland.....	-	21,762	21,850	700	6,900
Sweden.....	4,183	11,898	4,748	-	-
Switzerland.....	-	12,379	500	-	500
United Kingdom.....	80	24,250	-	-	-
Yugoslavia.....	-	13,283	-	-	-
India.....	-	13,200	-	4,000	-
Japan.....	1,047	16,100	18,339	-	-
Palestine.....	-	7,510	-	-	-
Egypt.....	1,271	3,560	-	-	-
French Morocco.....	-	6,050	-	-	-
Union of South Africa.....	-	16,579	-	8,497	-
Others.....	8,678	949	6,000	-	-
Total.....	299,838	968,432	479,289	100,457	37,837

a/ Declared destination. b/ Preliminary.

American Embassy, Manila.

Activities of the Hukbalahap dissident groups in the coconut-producing provinces of Quezon and Laguna have affected production of copra and desiccated coconut. The Government has been zoning certain areas and evacuating the inhabitants to other localities where they can be protected. It is believed that at least 2 months will be required to complete the action with a resulting copra reduction of about 35 percent. This area normally contributes at least 20 percent of the total copra production and is one of the main suppliers of the Manila copra mills. As a result of smaller nut supply, desiccators are operating at 75 percent of capacity. Ten of a total of 14 desiccating plants in the Philippines are located in Quezon and Laguna.

Coconut-oil exports, all to the United States (7,208 Atlantic Coast and 1,425 Pacific), amounted to 8,633 tons in October. This is more than twice the size of any other monthly shipment to date this year. The January-October total of 33,009 tons exceeds the 1947 total (12 months) by almost 10,000 tons.

Local buying prices in November were 49 to 50 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$249 to \$254 per long ton) in Manila and 45 to 45.50 pesos (\$229 to \$231) in producing areas. European buyers are offering about \$240 per long ton f.o.b.

MALAYAN PALM PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

Palm-oil and palm-kernel production in the Federation of Malaya during September continued the upward trend which began in July 1948. Oil production amounted to 4,797 short tons, compared with 4,052 for August, bringing the 9-month total to 35,046. This represents an increase of 24 percent over the 28,324 tons produced in the comparable period of 1947. Month-end stocks of 5,069 tons likewise showed an increase of 29 percent over the quantity held on August 31.

Palm-kernel production for September was 926 tons compared with 773 in August, an increase of 20 percent. The 9-month total is thus 6,479 compared with 4,120 for last year. Stocks decreased from 1,129 tons at the end of August to 1,101 on September 30.

CEYLON COPRA EXPORTS RESPOND TO PRICE RISE

Ceylon copra exports during the third quarter of 1948 amounted to 19,879 long tons, accounting for 94 percent of the January-September total of 21,162 tons, according to a report from the American Embassy, Colombo. Coconut-oil shipments (July-September) of 22,422 tons were also larger than in the 2 previous quarters and totaled 59,912 for the 9 months. Copra exports were considerably larger, and coconut oil more than double the quantities shipped during the corresponding months of 1947.

The increase in exports of coconut products is attributed to a revision in the contract with the United Kingdom which increased the export price of copra and coconut oil (See Foreign Crops and Markets September 20, 1948).

CEYLON: Copra and coconut oil exports
January-September 1948 with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution				Coconut oil distribution			
	Average: :1935-39:	1947	a/	Jan.-Sept. :1947 a/:1948 a/	Average: :1935-39:	1947	a/	Jan.-Sept. :1947 a/:1948 a/
Canada.....	-	-	-	-	8,523:	-	-	-
West Indies.....	-	-	-	-	881:	20:	20:	-
Denmark.....	1,605:	-	-	265:	35:	-	-	-
France.....	354:	-	-	287:	347:	-	-	-
Greece.....	1,526:	-	-	45:	120:	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	-	-	-	1,642:	-	-	-	1,000
Italy.....	6,541:	-	-	897:	1,724:	-	-	717
Norway.....	150:	-	-	-	45:	-	-	-
United Kingdom..	420:	13,038:	-	10,607:	14,160:	29,960:	18,403:	52,016
Other Europe.....	5,905:	-	-	-	10,725:	-	-	-
Arabia.....	-	-	-	5:	26:	-	-	10
Bahrein Islands..	-	-	-	-	12:	-	-	10
Cyprus.....	-	-	-	-	146:	411:	183:	75
India.....	42,553:	16,634:	14,781:	6,741:	10,769:	11,278:	9,787:	5,899
Iran.....	-	-	-	2:	-	-	-	-
Iraq.....	20:	10:	-	79:	315:	119:	20:	65
Pakistan.....	-	-	-	290:	-	-	-	-
Palestine.....	-	-	-	-	15:	85:	85:	100
Syria.....	60:	-	-	300:	164:	52:	30:	-
Other Asia.....	360:	-	-	2:	2,368:	-	80:	-
Egypt.....	425:	-	-	-	2,433:	155:	155:	-
Union of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa..	-	-	-	-	2,597:	117:	114:	-
Ships' Stores...	-	-	4:	-	2:	-	27:	20
Other countries..	8:	63:	-	-	3,606:	118:	-	-
Total.....	59,927:	b/29,745:	14,785:	21,162:	59,013:	42,315:	28,904:	59,912

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.

American Embassy, Colombo.

On October 1, Ceylon copra stocks were 10,000 tons and coconut oil, 10,000. The latter figure represents the maximum storage capacity of oil, both bulk and in drums. Unless coconut oil moves more rapidly, the Government will have to permit the export of more copra. This is contrary to their recent policy of crushing the copra locally in order to provide employment and to retain the oil cake for livestock feed.

The outlook for 1949 is somewhat doubtful. There have been wide-spread droughts which normally affect the following year's coconut crop. Some producers, however, are of the opinion that damage will not prove serious as nuts already visible on the palms do not appear stunted in growth.

U. S. IMPORTS OF SPECIFIED VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States imports of specified vegetable oils and oilseeds during January-September 1948 with comparisons.

UNITED STATES: Imports a/ of specified oils and oilseeds,
January-September 1948 with comparisons.

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1946	1947 b/	January-September 1947 b/ : 1948 b/	
Babassu kernels..	1,000 lbs.	c/	39,463	22,233	22,013	37,283
Babassu oil.....	" "	d/ 346	2,314	1,747	1,523	1,224
Castor-beans.....	" "	132,924	226,295	276,807	179,830	217,753
Castor oil.....	" "	226	6,450	6,595	6,595	1,424
Flaxseed.....	" bu.	18,470	3,394	282	280	1,048
Linseed oil.....	" lbs.	713	94,405	117,326	117,311	3,601
Copra.....	Short tons	230,000	394,696	677,660	471,124	350,776
Coconut oil.....	1000 lbs.	342,717	2,353	23,559	17,523	60,616
Oiticica oil.....	" "	d/ 7,673	22,593	8,471	7,674	14,445
Olive oil:						
Edible.....	" "	62,811	12,660	11,250	7,670	26,303
Inedible.....	" "	35,448	103	248	227	7,639
Palm oil.....	" "	321,482	37,850	63,212	50,250	40,793
Sesame seed.....	" "	58,425	4,891	9,479	8,619	21,033
Tea seed oil.....	" "	13,159	88	6,377	5,682	3,397
Tucum kernels....	" "	e/ 9,810	12,709	16,887	16,887	12,487
Tung oil.....	" "	123,190	36,207	121,564	89,358	92,924

a/ Imports for consumption. b/ Preliminary. c/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. d/ Average of less than 5 years.
e/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

U. S. EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED
FATS, OILS, AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds during January-September 1948 with comparisons.

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds,
January-September 1948 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1946	1947 <u>a/</u>	Jan.-Sept. 1947 <u>a/</u> :1948 <u>a/</u>
Soybeans.....	1,000 bu.: <u>b/</u>	4,793:	2,906:	2,505:	1,142: 2,319
Soybean oil:					
Refined.....	" lbs.: <u>c/</u>	(6,647:	72,583:	38,883:	25,990: 32,976
Crude.....			13,228:	68,395:	38,865: 36,793
Coconut oil:					
Refined.....	" "	3,789:	935:	5,491:	2,893: 8,556
Crude.....	" "	10,442:	47,366:	52,427:	45,847: 9,448
Cottonseed oil:					
Refined.....	" "	4,793:	5,857:	10,977:	3,148: 20,496
Crude.....	" "	1,515:	244:	901:	22: 3,351
Linseed oil.....	" "	1,280:	1,625:	9,792:	4,428: 24,744
Peanuts:					
Shelled.....	" "	(452:	61,043:	212,253:	126,672: 250,821
Not shelled.....	" "		7,066:	18,681:	14,409: 6,510
Peanut oil, refined..	" "	<u>d/</u> 325:	75:	1,579:	694: 667
Cooking fats.....	" "	2,111:	11,424:	3,594:	2,832: 2,518
Lard.....	" "	165,636:	430,682:	380,735:	286,640: 199,081
Oleomargarine.....	" "	180:	50,483:	19,954:	15,077: 2,952
Tallow:					
Edible.....	" "	(1,651:	4,151:	601:	452: 1,267
Inedible.....			6,472:	54,553:	35,992: 7,247

a/ Preliminary. b/ Average of less than 5 years.

c/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation.

d/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

TOBACCOPRICE FOR CANADIAN FLUE-CURED
LEAF AT RECORD LEVEL

A minimum average price of 41.25 cents per pound was established on October 22 for 1948 crop flue-cured tobacco produced by members of the Ontario Flue-cured Tobacco Marketing Association of Canada. The minimum average price derived from a range running from 4.1 cents per pound for nondescript leaf to 82.17 cents per pound for top quality, is the highest on record and compares with the minimum average price of 36.5 cents per pound for the 1947 crop.

Most of Canada's flue-cured production, which according to a recent estimate by the Dominion's Bureau of Statistics totaled 87,756,000 pounds in 1948 as compared with the 1947 crop of 86,863,000 pounds, is produced by members of the Ontario Association. Minimum average prices for each crop are established by a marketing appraisal commission comprised of 3 growers and 3 representatives of buying organizations. Prices paid by buyers must at least equal the established average minimum. Actual prices for the 1947 crop averaged 37.34 cents per pound, or nearly 1 cent above the minimum.

Sales of leaf by Association members began on November 2 and it was estimated that by November 4 approximately two-thirds of the growers had sold their crops. The top average price for a single producer's crop was 50.25 cents per pound and the lowest 35 cents. It is reported that approximately 12,000,000 pounds of the country's 1948 production will be purchased for export to the United Kingdom and most of the remainder taken by domestic manufacturers.

CUBA'S 1948 TOBACCO PLANTINGS
HIGHER: 1948 EXPORTS INCREASED

Planting of tobacco seedbeds and other early season preparation by Cuban tobacco growers indicate that they plan to grow about 20 percent more leaf in 1948-49 than they produced in 1947-48. Domestic consumption of tobacco has continued high and exports of leaf during the 8 months, January through August 1948, total about 6 percent above the corresponding months of 1947, according to a report from the American Embassy at Havana.

The Cuban Tobacco Growers Association has proposed to government authorities that the limit on 1948-49 production of sun-grown leaf be set at about 66,000,000 pounds, which, together with the shade-grown production would give a total crop of about 70,000,000 pounds. This would compare with the 1947-48 production of approximately 60,000,000 pounds, comprised of about 55,000,000 pounds of sun-grown leaf and 5,000,000 of shade-grown. An official statement of the government's limitation on 1948-49 production has not been received, but it is anticipated that the new administration in Cuba will accept the growers' proposal.

The planting of seedbeds and other early season preparations for the 1948-49 crop were delayed as a result of hurricanes on September 20 and October 4. It is evident that plantings will be later than usual in some of the important producing districts and if weather conditions follow their usual pattern, dry weather near the end of the growing season may reduce yields.

Exports of leaf from Cuba during the first 8 months of 1948 totaled 20,200,000 pounds (unstemmed equivalent) or about 6 percent more than during the corresponding months of 1947. About half of the January-August 1948 exports was unstemmed filler; 38 percent was stemmed filler; and the remainder was scrap. The United States continued to be the principal export outlet. During the first 8 months of 1948 it took 54 percent of total leaf exports.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL TOBACCO CORPORATION TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED LEAF PRODUCTION, INCLUDING FLUE-CURED

The Philippine National Tobacco Corporation, recently reorganized by the country's President, has received a \$1,500,000 government appropriation to carry out projects to increase Philippine tobacco production.

According to a report from the American Embassy at Manila, the projects are to include larger purchases of leaf by the National Corporation; the establishing of farm cooperative associations; construction of tobacco warehouses; the developing of a plantation for production of cigar wrapper tobacco; expanded production of flue-cured tobacco; the improving of cropping systems for tobacco farmers; developing of foreign markets for leaf tobacco; and chemical and industrial research involving tobacco.

In its project to encourage the production of flue-cured leaf, the Corporation is working closely with the government's Import Control Board, which plans to reduce cigarette imports, largely from the United States, by approximately 45 percent and increase production of flue-cured leaf for domestic manufacture of cigarettes. Cigarette imports in 1947 totaled 9.2 billion pieces valued at over \$21,000,000 and in time the Import Control Board plans to reduce the annual import to approximately 5 billion pieces. It is anticipated that several years will be required to develop a significant production of flue-cured type tobacco in the Philippines and, pending such development, the Import Control Board will permit import of American type tobacco by domestic cigarette manufacturers.

GREEK 1948 TOBACCO PRODUCTION LOWER: MARKET OUTLET IMPROVED

Greece's 1948 tobacco production has been estimated at 15.6 percent below 1947. Most of the 1947 crop has been sold at prices above the official minimum, and exports during the first half of 1948 were relatively high, according to a report from the American Embassy in Athens.

The Hellenic Tobacco Board has estimated Greece's 1948 leaf production at 87,200,000 pounds, as compared with 1947 crop of 103,322,000 pounds and the prewar, 1935-39, average annual production of 132,819,000 pounds. Reduction in acreage, resulting from Civil warfare in some of the important producing districts, was the principal reason for the lower 1948 crop, but dry weather during the growing season also reduced yields per acre. The quality of the crop was improved by the dry weather, especially in northern Greece where it is reported that a high percentage of the crop is of top grades normally purchased by American buyers.

Following delays in the establishment of minimum prices, 1947 crop tobacco was sold in record time. By the end of September, all 1947 crop leaf in northern Greece was sold except small quantities held by growers for higher prices. For the country as a whole, the Tobacco Board has estimated that over 70 percent of the 1947 crop had been sold by the end of September. As a result of the lower production and active competition in the market, prices received by farmers for all grades of leaf from the 1947 crop ranged from 5 to 15 percent above the government's minimum prices, which were announced at the beginning of the season on a Drachma basis at 155 times prewar prices. The recently organized cooperative company "Cooperative Company of Tobacco Growers of Greece" purchased approximately 15,000,000 pounds of the best export grades from the crop. There was active competition with Italian and American buyers in the purchase of these better grades, and French and other buyers competed in the purchase of lower grades.

Exports from January through June 1948 of 1946 crop leaf totaled 29,610,000 pounds, as compared with an export 21,827,000 pounds of tobacco from earlier crops exported during the corresponding months of 1947. Stocks of 1946 crop leaf in commercial hands at the middle of October 1948 were reported to be very small.

TURKEY'S 1948 TOBACCO PRODUCTION DECREASED; STOCKS LARGE; PRICES LOWER

Turkey's 1948 tobacco production has been officially estimated at more than 20 percent below the country's 1947 record crop of 220,000,000 pounds. Export supplies of old crop leaf at the beginning of October were estimated at well over 100,000,000 pounds and prices to growers have declined, according to a report from the American Embassy in Ankara.

The reduction in the 1948 crop is attributed to a sharp curtailment in acreage. The area planted has been officially estimated at 225,000 acres, as compared with 320,000 in 1947. Planting conditions were ideal and stands exceptionally good. The Turkish government's estimate of production of about 170,000,000 pounds is its first preliminary forecast and some trade sources estimate the crop substantially higher.

Record productions in 1945 through 1947, combined with exports at only about the prewar level has resulted in the accumulation of large export supplies. At the beginning of October these stocks from 1947 and earlier crops were estimated by trade sources of about 130,000,000 pounds, comprised of 58,000,000 pounds of the so-called American grades and 72,000,000 pounds of European grades. This supply, together with the large 1948 production, which at the government's figure exceeds that of previous years except in 1946 and 1947, has depressed prices. Trade sources estimate that if free market conditions prevail, prices for 1948 crop leaf will be 10 percent or more below prices paid for the 1947 crop and far below prices for the 1945 and 1946 crops.

Leaf exports from Turkey during the first 6 months of 1948 totaled only 36,055,000 pounds, as compared with 55,399,000 during the corresponding months in 1947. The United States continued to be the principal destination for exports, but its takings during the first 6 months of 1948 were only about half of those during the corresponding months in 1947.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

1948-49 COSTA RICAN COFFEE CROP REVISED DOWNWARD

The Coffee Office in Costa Rica now estimates that the 1948-49 coffee crop will total only 345,000 bags (132 pounds each) instead of 365,000 bags, as forecast earlier in the season. No reason is given for the reduced estimate. The 1947-48 crop was estimated at 462,000 bags, but was of lower quality than the current crop according to a report from the American Embassy in San Jose.

The unsatisfactory quality of the 1947-48 crop resulted from acceptance by coffee processors of mixed ripe and immature berries, and, in some cases, fermented berries. This should not occur during the current season, since a law passed October 5, 1948, effective the same day, prohibits the delivery by coffee growers of mixed green and ripe coffee berries to the processors and the acceptance by the processors of coffee in such condition. Coffee processors also are forbidden to undertake simultaneously the processing of lots of fresh and fermented berries.

CEYLON'S 1948 TEA PRODUCTION BELOW 1947

Tea production in Ceylon for the calendar year 1948 is estimated at 282,000,000 pounds, compared with 298,526,000 pounds in 1947 and the 1935-39 average of 231,505,000 pounds. About 270,000,000 pounds of tea are expected to be available for export from the current crop. Exports for the first half of 1948 totaled 150,000,000 pounds, all of which was black tea.

CHINA'S 1948 PRODUCTION OF TEA FOR EXPORT EQUALS 1947

Production of tea for export during 1948 in China including Taiwan, is expected to approximately equal the 1947 crop, according to Emory C. Swank, American Vice Consul in Shanghai. Exports from January through July 1948 totaled about 22 million pounds which was more than exports during the corresponding months of 1947. Total 1947 exports were 36,000,000 pounds.

During the first 7 months of 1948 sizeable quantities of brick and black tea were exported to the U.S.S.R. under barter commitments, and the small markets for China tea in the United States and the United Kingdom were maintained. Southeast Asia and Morocco took less tea than in 1947 but were still China's most important markets.

Despite the inadequacy of government loans at the beginning of the tea season, production for export was encouraged by reasonably favorable foreign exchange rates in June, July, and August. The new and even more favorable exchange rate which accompanied the currency reform (August 23, 1948) substantially increased exports and purchases in the interior. Merchants and exporters enjoyed a period of relative prosperity for about a month until rapidly rising prices in the interior made it difficult, if not unprofitable, for them to replace stocks sold abroad. Farmers and processors in some producing regions are now charging higher prices than at any time since the war; consequently a period of relatively limited trading may prevail during the remainder of the year.

(Mr. Swank's report was written October 7, 1948 and does not reflect developments which may result from the recent extension of military conflict in China).

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

(Continued from Page 403)

ARGENTINE GRAIN CONDITION FAVORABLE: ACREAGE REDUCED

Argentina's grain crop is generally in good condition where rainfall has been normal, according to the Agricultural Attache in Buenos Aires. In the northern area of the grain belt, however, dry weather is expected to result in a fairly high rate of abandonment, as well as having reduced the acreage seeded. Southern areas are in much better condition, with considerably better than average yields expected in the Bahia Blanca area.

The situation contrasts sharply with conditions last year, when most favorable outturns were reported from northern zones, and record yields were obtained. Contrasting with Bahia Blanca's good outlook this year, the 1947-48 outturn there was the poorest in years.

Weather conditions have not favored the development of rust to any extent although some rust damage has been reported in the southern part of the Province of Buenos Aires. Frost in that area is also a risk to the end of November. Locust damage has been light this season, with only occasional fields lost from that cause.

No official estimates of Argentine acreage are available, but unofficial reports indicate a slight decline in wheat acreage and a substantial reduction in the barley area. Despite favorable conditions at seeding time in the barley area (southwest Buenos Aires, eastern La Pampa, and southern Cordoba) a sizeable reduction is attributed to the low prices paid during the past season with no assurance of a better rate for the crop to be harvested next month.

The acreage seeded to rye and oats is reported to be moderately larger than in 1947-48. The long period of favorable planting weather accounts for a good part of the increase, while stronger interest in cattle fattening was said to be a factor in maintaining the rye acreage. The larger seedings of oats were also ascribed to the smaller barley acreage, some shift from barley to oats seedings having been reported. The advice to use oats stands as much as possible for cattle pasture, given producers by the National Economic Council, came too late to affect seedings materially. A slackening in export demand caused the advice, which may result in a somewhat smaller area being harvested as grain than would otherwise have been the case.

Corn, now being planted, is also expected to show a smaller acreage than in 1947-48 largely because of the difficulties producers are having in disposing of the last crop and the failure of the Government to offer a price increase, considered necessary to offset rising costs. Whereas corn would normally be planted on any small-grain areas abandoned, this year sudan grass and sorgho may be used as alternate crops.

The Government has not yet announced the prices to be paid producers for the crop to be harvested beginning in late November. Export prices have recently been adjusted downward for sales of coarse grains payable in U. S. dollars.

The Argentine Trade Promotion Institute on October 8 authorized offers of oats to foreign buyers (payable in U.S. dollars) at 86 cents per bushel f.o.b. Buenos Aires, compared with the earlier established rate of \$1.51 per bushel. At that time barley prices under the same conditions were lowered from \$2.27 per bushel to \$1.30. The export price of rye was cut 50 percent from the previous rate of \$3.78 per bushel, but wheat was still held at the old rate of \$4.86 per bushel. Corn, currently quoted at the equivalent of \$2.38 per bushel, is also probably at a lower rate for dollar transactions.

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COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

(Continued from Page 404)

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S. gulf-port average

Market location kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
<u>Alexandria</u>		: Kantar	:	:	:
Ashmouni, Good.....	11-18	99.05 lbs.	: Tallari	: 46.50	: 38.80
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	: 43.25	: 36.09
Karnak, Good,.....	"	"	"	: 74.50	: 62.16
Karnak, F.G.F.	"	"	"	: (not	: quoted)
<u>Bombay</u>		: Candy	:	:	:
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	: Rupee	: 610.00	: 23.47
Broach, Fine.....	"	"	"	: 650.00	: 25.01
Kampala, East Africa....	"	"	"	: (not	: available)
<u>Karachi</u>		: Maund	:	:	:
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine...	11-17	82.28 lbs.	"	: 73.00	: 26.77
289F Sind, S.G., Fine...	"	"	"	: 86.50	: 31.72
289 Punjab, S.G., Fine...	"	"	"	: 94.00	: 34.46
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		: Metric ton	:	:	:
Type B.....	11-18	2204.6 lbs.	: Peso	: a/3,300.00	: 44.57
<u>Lima</u>		: Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Tanguis, Type 5.....	11-16	101.4 lbs.	: Sol	: 176.00	: 26.76
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	: 278.00	: 42.27
<u>Recife</u>		: Arroba	:	:	:
Mata, Type 4.....	11-18	33.07 lbs.	: Cruzeiro	: 188.00	: 30.93
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	"	"	: 205.00	: 33.73
<u>Sao Paulo</u>		:	:	:	:
Sal Paulo, Type 5.....	"	"	"	: 207.00	: 34.06
<u>Torreón</u>		: Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	: Peso	: 181.00	: 25.88
<u>Houston-Galveston-New</u>		:	:	:	:
Orleans av. d.15/16"...	"	: Pound	: Cent	: XXXX	: 31.27
	:	:	:	:	:

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

a/ Nominal.

PAKISTAN ANNOUNCES COTTON
EXPORT POLICY FOR 1948-49

The Government of Pakistan announced on October 30 a schedule of export allocations for the year ending August 31, 1949. The total of 1,075,000 Pakistan bales (878,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) was divided as follows (in thousands of bales):

Country	: Bales of : 400 pounds : net	: Bales of : 500 pounds : gross
India	: 650	: 531
United Kingdom..	: 100	: 82
Belgium.....	: 100	: 82
Czechoslovakia..	: 40	: 33
United States...	: 35	: 29
Italy.....	: 25	: 21
France.....	: 20	: 16
Scandinavian countries....	: 20	: 16
Australia.....	: 15	: 12
U.S.S.R.	: 15	: 12
Spain.....	: 15	: 12
China.....	: 15	: 12
Germany.....	: 10	: 8
Other countries..	: 15	: 13
Total.....	: 1,075	: 878

No quota was fixed for Japan because of pending negotiations for exchange of commodities between the two countries.

The 1948-49 crop was recently estimated at 1,300,000 Pakistan bales (1,062,000 bales of 400 pounds gross). If this amount is harvested, approximately 225,000 Pakistan bales (184,000 bales) will be available for domestic consumption and exports to Japan. Domestic consumption is not expected to exceed 150,000 Pakistan bales (122,000 bales) and stocks were at a minimum requirement level at the beginning of the current season. About 50 percent of the crop is usually of 7/8 inch staple or longer. India purchases only the longer staples and the Indian quota is equivalent to half of the crop, leaving only the shorter staples for all other countries and for local consumption.

About 50,000 bales of unsold Pakistan cotton have been on Bombay docks for several months, pending a decision as to whether it could be charged against last year's quota for India. The Pakistan Government recently agreed to charge this cotton to the 1947-48 quota. All foreign buyers must open irrevocable letters of credit in Pakistan banks before export licenses are granted.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

(Continued from Page 415)

CANADA REVISED
GRAIN ESTIMATES

Wheat production in Canada was slightly larger than formerly reported and other grains a little smaller, according to the November estimate of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Wheat production, now placed at 393,342,000 bushels, compares with the revised estimate of 336,758,000 bushels for 1947.

The oats crop is now estimated at 357,703,000 bushels of 34 pounds and barley at 154,643,000 bushels. At the reduced figure, the oats production is about 30 percent above the small 1947 harvest. Rye, now placed at 25,348,000 bushels, is almost double last year's above-average outturn, Flaxseed at 17,353,000 bushels is substantially above the 1947 figure.

